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SOURCE Chung-kuo Nung-pao

NEW CHINESE WHEAT PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES RAISE OUTPUT

Comment and Summary: This report gives figures on wheat production in various hsiens, and ts'un which used advanced techniques in wheat production, as well as the results of experiments of the Shensi Province agricultural experimental stations (hereafter called provincial experiment stations). The new wheat-raising techniques are described and compared with those of previous years and those used currently by farmers operating in their usual way.<sup>7</sup>

Conference Studies Wheat Production Techniques

This year [1952], wheat in Shansi Province suffered from widespread drought, wind, cold, disease, and insect pests, thereby reducing production throughout the province. However, certain areas attained high production and even set new production records. According to preliminary statistics, the province already has one ts'un, 6 agricultural production cooperatives, 47 mutual aid teams, 135 households, and one state farm, all of which have achieved high production.

In Chao-ch'eng Hsien, the 305 families of Chi-lo Ts'un collectively planted 1,067.95 mou of wheat among which 773 mou of irrigated land showed an average production of 350 catties per mou, surpassing surrounding villages by from 16 to 40 percent, while 10.88 mou of special high-production irrigated land showed an average of 772.4 catties per mou. The Hsin-hsien Special Administrative District State Farm has 13 mou of nonirrigated high-production wheat land producing an average of 307 catties per mou and exceeding by 27.9 percent the average production of similar land worked by the local farmers.

In Tsao-yen Ts'un, Wu-hsiang Hsien, the Wei Ming-piao Agricultural Production Cooperative, including 25 households, had a total of 40.3 mou of nonirrigated high-production wheat land averaging 450 catties per mou. The cooperative achieved especially high production on 1.964 mou, which averaged 774 catties per mou.

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In Hsi-liang Ts'un, I-ch'eng Hsien, the Wu Ch'un-an Agricultural Production Cooperative, numbering ten households, had 4.6 mou of nonirrigated wheat land, each mou averaging 360 catties. In Nan-yin-pi Ts'un, Hung-tung Hsien, all the 21 families of the Liu Hung-yu Agricultural Production Cooperative had 210 mou of nonirrigated wheat land, which averaged 128 catties per mou, surpassing neighboring villages by 120 percent <sup>[sic]</sup>. In Chi-lo Ts'un, Chao-ch'eng Hsien, the five families making up the Chang Wu-yu Mutual Aid Team had 18.3 mou of irrigated high-production wheat land, averaging 401.7 catties per mou; on 3.71 mou of especially high-production land, each mou averaged 737 catties. The Wen Ts'un, Chieh-hsiu Hsien, the Li Shu-chen Mutual Aid Team averaged 729 catties per mou on 3 mou of irrigated high-production wheat land. The entire Li Chun-fa Mutual Aid Team, including 14 families, averaged 364.5 catties per mou on 4 mou of non-irrigated high-production wheat land, of which 2 mou had the especially high-production average of 417.4 catties per mou.

In addition to the above, the crop-judging program revealed a large group of bumper-crop households, seven of which produced more than 700 catties per mou on irrigated land in Chao-ch'eng Hsien. Among the highest production was that of 834 catties per mou. Nine families produced an estimated 400 catties per mou on nonirrigated land. They are distributed as follows: in Chao-ch'eng Hsien one family; in Wen-shi Hsien, three families; in Hsiu Hsien, one family; in Ho-chiu Hsien, one family; in Jung-ho Hsien, two families; and in Wan-ch'uan Hsien, one family.

One extremely important factor in increasing wheat production per unit of area is planting the rows more closely together, as was proved by high-production records in Shansi Province and other places some time ago, as well as by advanced Soviet experience. Results of experiments carried out in 1951 in the Shansi Province provincial experimental stations under equal plowing and fertilizing conditions were as follows: on plots where the distance between rows was 8 inches, production was calculated at 207.4 catties per shih mou <sup>[one shih mou equals 0.1647 acre]</sup>. If one foot apart, production averaged 192.1 catties per shih mou; if one foot, 2 inches apart, production was 196.6 catties per shih mou; and a one-foot, 5-inch space between rows resulted in only 169.8 catties per shih mou.

Results of experiments performed in 1952 showed that plots where rows were planted 5 inches apart produced 268 catties per shih mou; with an 8-inch space, the average was 250 catties; with a one-foot space between rows, the production declined to 243 catties per shih mou; and with a one-foot, 5-inch space, to 236 catties, or a 23.3-percent lower production than with a 5-inch space.

With a 3-inch-wide seed bed and a one-foot, 2-inch space between rows, production was 245 catties; with the same width seed bed, but with one foot, 5 inches between rows, production was 214 catties, or 14 percent lower than with one-foot, 2-inch spacing, but 10.3 percent higher than with the usual one-foot spacing. Results of experiments at the Lin-fen State Farm showed that when the space between rows was reduced to 5 inches, each mou produced an average of 423.6 catties, surpassing by 14.3 percent production of plots with one-foot spacing. The record wheat production of 834 catties in Chi-lo Ts'un, Chao-ch'eng Hsien, was established by Chu Chang-te, who used 3-inch-wide seed beds.

In Wen Ts'un, Chieh-shui Hsien, Li Shu-chen, who also used seed beds 3 inches wide or wider, produced 2½ times more than the average local farmer. The clear results of 2 years of experiments in the provincial experimental station showed that when the distance between rows is less, wheat production increases and that when the distance between rows increases, production diminishes. Even when wide seed furrows and close planting techniques are applied on certain plots, their production cannot compare with that in close-row spacing.

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One of the most important factors in obtaining high wheat production is to increase the amount of seed sown by diminishing the space between rows and widening the seed bed. This one advanced experience must be carried out throughout the entire province this fall. In Yen-ch'eng, Lin-fen, and in the southern part of southeast Shansi, 20 catties of seed should be sown per mou (of irrigated land) and from 10 to 12 catties on nonirrigated land. In Ch'ang-chih and Yu-tz'u, 20 catties of seed should be sown per mou (of irrigated land) and from 12 to 20 on nonirrigated land. In Hsin Hsien, 25 catties should be sown per mou on irrigated land and 20 catties on nonirrigated land.

#### High Wheat Production in Chahar

Today, in a large section of southern Chahar and northern Shansi, there are abundant crops of wheat, revealing that quite a few ts'un, mutual aid teams, and individuals have established new records in production, according to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Chahar Province.

Huai-jen Hsien state farm received an award in 1951 from the Central People's Government for abundant production of millet. The same farm established a wheat production record, with 1.2 mou, which was planted to "No 51" irrigated wheat. It produced 768.5 catties, or an average of 640 catties per mou, and .9 mou of "No 52" irrigated wheat yielded 603 catties. Of a total of 3.2 mou of wheat sown, each mou averaged 577 catties, excelling by 200 percent the local farmers' production. On the Sha-ling-tzu State Farm, wheat production averaged 464.5 catties for 5.5 mou, more than doubling last year's production and also doubling current neighborhood production. Two of these plots of 5.5 mou had a high production average of 640 catties per mou.

Farmers in southern Chahar planted more than 149,000 mou of wheat, which yielded an abundant harvest, with average production of 127.5 catties per mou, more than doubling last year's production. Southern Chahar's principal wheat production areas, Huai-an, Cho-lu, Huai-lai, and Wan-chuan hsiens, averaged from 200 to 240 catties per mou. In the Fifth Ch'u of Huai-an Hsien, the village of Hsi-sha-wa Ts'un planted 291 mou of wheat. Average production per mou was 376 catties, a 44.6-percent increase over previous years; in Hsi-sha-wa Ts'un, the Wu Chin-i Mutual Aid Team produced 411 catties of wheat per mou on 40.5 mou of land. Wu Chin-i's own 1.56 mou produced 548 catties, averaging 607.5 catties per mou. The Li Hsueh-chin Mutual Aid Team produced 4,422 catties from 11 mou of wheat, averaging 402 catties per mou. Of these 11 mou, 3.1 mou had high production, averaging 475 catties.

Chang Yin-hui's 1.5 mou of wheat averaged 524.5 catties per mou. In the Sixth Ch'u, 215 families, representing six villages, planted 549 mou of wheat. According to investigations of the typical family's production, the average was 222 catties per mou, more than doubling that of last year. Wheat planted by Chou K'o-ch'eng, Kuo Chen-lu, and other families of Yeh-chia-hsin-yao yielded an average of over 450 catties per mou. Cho-lu Hsien had an average wheat production of 220 catties per mou, a 30-percent increase over the average of previous years and double that of last year. The majority of mutual aid teams and high-production individual farmers averaged 250 catties per mou. For example, 11 mutual aid teams of the Yang-yu-lin area had 128 mou of wheat, with an average production of 300 catties per mou. Huai-lai Hsien, Second Ch'u, had 50 villages in the neighborhood of Hsin-pao-an with more than 8,000 mou of wheat also averaging a production of 300 catties per mou, twice the production of last year and four times that of previous years. Li Kung-jung, mutual aid team member of Hsi-shui-ch'uan Ts'un, produced an average of 547 catties per mou from 4.83 mou of wheat. Yen-chia-fang Ts'un, Yen Shih-ming Mutual Aid Team, had a 16-mou bumper crop of wheat, averaging 414 catties per mou.

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Yen-pei Special Administrative District farmers planted 340,000 mou of wheat, all of which produced excellent crops, with the exception of 20,000 mou that suffered from natural calamities. There was an increase in production of 22 percent over last year, each mou averaging 100 catties. More than 1,000 mou of wheat land in Huai-jen Hsien averaged 120 catties per mou, an increase of 45 catties per mou over last year. Farmer Wang Ch'uan of this hsien had 1.6 mou of wheat producing 659 catties per mou, which is a new record this year for wheat production in this province. In Ho-chia-pao Ts'un, 14 families had 20.11 mou of wheat averaging over 450 catties per mou.

This year, the wheat area in a large section of the province had an excellent crop. The principal reasons for this are as follows:

1. Cadres and the peasant masses received patriotic education in expanding the high-production emulation movement and set up an agricultural plan with a high-production control unit and an inspection team. With increased efforts and government assistance, Yang K'uan planted 4.7 mou of wheat, which yielded approximately 801 catties per mou.
2. Organization increased the efficiency of labor. For example, in Cho-lu Hsien, 70 percent of Yang-chia-t'un Ts'un organized and increased efficiency so that land was hoed up to five times, which is two to three times more than before organization. Even though ploughing and cultivation were intensified, there was a surplus of labor, which conducted a fertilizer-collection campaign. With organization, one mou which was interplanted with beans and wheat produced almost 230 catties of wheat alone, surpassing local production of farmers who planted only wheat.
3. Farmers improved their skill and intensified cultivation, giving special attention to fertilizing, mid-season planting, irrigation, selection of good seeds, etc. Their method is summarized as follows:
  - a. The farmers put in operation a program of wider seed furrows and thicker seeding, increasing the amount of grain sown from 17 or 18 catties to 23 to 25 catties per mou. The furrows were widened from 2 inches to 5 inches, while the space between the furrows was narrowed from 8 to 6 inches.
  - b. The farmers concentrated and scheduled the use of fertilizer, applying it four times (for example, on the Huai-jen Hsien State Farm) and using different fertilizers, depending on the nature of the soil. If the wheat land was shaded, they used night soil, animal manure, or some other heat-type fertilizer and applied chicken manure, vegetable ash, and others as follow-up fertilizers, concentrating it in the seed furrows. The amount of fertilizer used this year generally exceeded that used in previous years. Yang-chia-t'un Ts'un, Cho-lu, averaged 130 packloads per mou, more than 60 packloads over last year. In Huai-jen Hsien, the use of basic fertilizer increased by approximately 100 catties per mou.
  - c. The farmers employed improved irrigation techniques such as shallow irrigation, proper timing, and extra care, important factors in high-production results. For example, Sha-ling-tzu State Farm members applied shallow irrigation when the plants were 4 inches high to prevent deep cracking of the soil. After the wheat had become deeply rooted and was beginning to leaf out, they applied heavier irrigation, and after the wheat blossomed out, they used deep irrigation. About 1 May, they irrigated once, and when the wheat headed out, they irrigated again. In this way, they suitably combined the irrigation with the follow-up fertilization, thus speeding up its effect. Cho-lu Hsien farmers developed a sectional type of irrigation to economize on the use of water and to avoid

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irrigating the beans and wheat at the same time. They could irrigate the wheat when it needed irrigation, and by regulation, they could avoid having either too much or too little water.

At this time, farmers everywhere are comparing their experience to prepare for a much better crop next year.

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